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COUNCIL + UPDATE

The Newsletter of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, 900 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2 (416) 965-1111

JANUARY 1985

CHANGES

The ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES. That's our new name as of November 23, 1984. Still a mouthful to answer the phone with but much more indicative of our role and mandate.

Our mandate has been amended also, to put more emphasis on getting around the province. We're going to be doing a lot more travelling in 1985, trying to reach women living outside the major urban areas and Southern Ontario.

OUT AND ABOUT

Touche Ross was commissioned to study the organization of the Council and of the Women's Directorate and their relationship. Their report came up with a number of recommendations, including the name and mandate change, and concluded our objectives should be:

1. To advise the Government of Ontario, through the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, on matters pertaining to the status of women; and
2. To educate and increase the awareness of the public concerning women's issues, needs and concerns.

We're very pleased and excited that the report not only considered us necessary and valuable but indicated that both our budget and scope should be expanded. Let's hope we can do it!

The report also stated that in order to fulfil our objectives we would require a much higher degree of visibility. So Council members are checking their travel kits and wrinkle-free suits in preparation for a busy year. We'll be holding regional meetings in Sudbury, March 22-23, St. Catharines, May 24-25, Kenora, September 27-28 and Windsor, October 25-26.

The first day Council members will visit high schools, women's centres and rape crisis and detox centres and on the second day meet more formally with special interest groups. This format will provide a good forum for an exchange of ideas and concerns.

Northern Forum A Great Success

Council convened a public forum on WOMEN IN THE NORTH in Dryden September 15 & 16, 1984. There were 80 participants who submitted a total of 23 briefs. A final report is being prepared and it and relevant briefs will be sent to Mr. Robert Welch and appropriate ministers shortly. A major Resolution brought forward by the Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council was forwarded immediately to Northern Affairs Minister Leo Bernier.

The finished report will be available from Council upon request.

Health Conference '85

The Park Plaza Hotel in Toronto will be the setting for a varied group of health care practitioners to meet and discuss women's health issues on March 1 & 2, 1985.

Dr. Alice Baumgart, Dean of the School of Nursing at Queen's University will be our keynote speaker on March 1. The presentations and panel discussions will interest everyone and allow for participation from the floor. There will be an opportunity to meet with resource people, Council members and fledgling networkers.

Our existing health care system will be examined. Does it meet our needs? Are alternate forms of care beneficial or detrimental? What improvements can be made? These questions and many more will be asked and if not completely answered, at least clarified for further study. We'll be discussing economic issues, addictions, mental health, reproduction and more. The special needs of both older women and young people and those created by our multi-cultural society will be addressed.

General registration is free. The Friday night dinner is \$10. and pre-registration is required. The conference is accessible to those in wheelchairs and to the hard-of-hearing. Childcare will be available.

Call the Council office at 965-1111 for further details.



"I see fame in your future.
Someday they'll name a syndrome after you."

An Introduction To The Ontario Advisory Council On Women's Issues

Mariah Seymour, Kenora
Director, Lake of the Woods Cultural Centre; first woman elected to Elders Council. Concerns: native women & education. Term: Oct/84 to Oct/86

Diane Marleau, Sudbury
City Councillor, accountant; on hospital and community college boards. Concerns: northern women
Term: Oct/84 to Oct/86

Sandra Manzig, Windsor
Modern Language Specialist, St. Clair College; Concerns: Education, youth, multiculturalism.
Term: June/83 to June/86

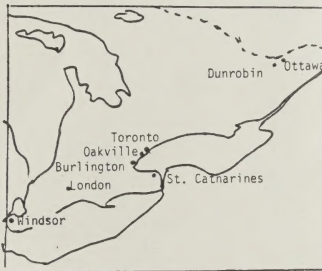
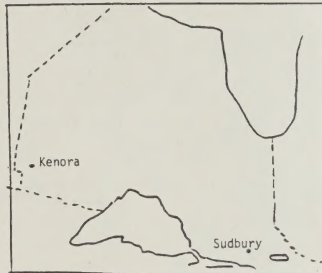
Annabelle Logan, London
Retired nurse; Past President of Childreach; active volunteer. Concerns: health, pornography.
Term: Aug/81 to June/87

Barb Stone, St. Catharines
Legal secretary; involved in community, church, and sports activities. Concerns: employment issues, family violence, northern women & women's self-image.
Term: Aug/81 to June/87

Kay Toye, Burlington
Volunteer with the elderly and in drug and alcohol addiction programs. Concerns: health, family violence and pornography.
Term: June/80 to June/86

Sandra Kerr, Oakville
Conducts seminars on self-image of women; was Special Assistant on Women's Issues. Concerns: education, child care, Charter of Rights.
Term: Nov/84 to Oct/86

Sam Ion, Toronto
President
Columnist and feature writer, Advice to the Working Woman; Past Commissioner on the Human Rights Commission; Past member of the Hamilton Status of Women Council; Active speaker on women's rights. Concerns: equal pay, education and employment of youth.
Term: Oct/84 to Oct/87



Dorothy Kirby-Rawn, Etobicoke.
Counsellor for alcoholic women; was a lift truck operator; has worked on union negotiating committee. Concerns: health, non-traditional jobs.
Term: Oct/84 to Oct/87

Glenna Carr, Toronto
Ex-officio member, in her capacity as Executive Director of the Ontario Women's Directorate

Eleanor Ryan, Ottawa
Financial Administrator with Dept. of External Affairs; past V.P. of OFL. Concerns: wage gap, women in the north, family law & pensions, part-time work.
Term: June/80 to June/85

William Kelloway, Ottawa
Professor at Canadian Police College. Concerns: equal pay, family law and violence, health and minority women.
Term: June/79 to June/85

Kay Howland, Dunrobin
Farm partner; was Town Councillor; worked with Minister of Justice. Concerns: rural women, family law and pensions.
Term: June/80 to June/86

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Toronto. Equal Opportunity Consultant, City of Toronto; was involved in formation of Women's Studies Program at U. of T. Concerns: equal pay, multiculturalism, education, citizen participation.
Term: Nov/83 to Nov/86

Ed Arundell, Toronto
Public Affairs Manager; PhD in Political Science; Parliamentary intern and lobbyist. Concerns: Charter of Rights, health care.
Term: Oct/84 to Oct/87

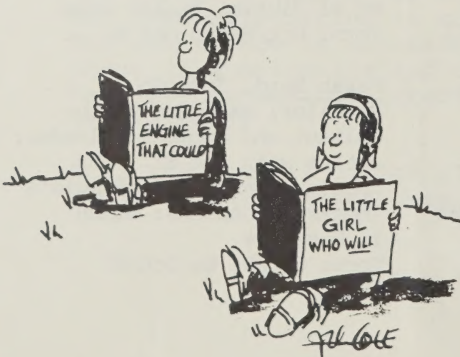
Sarah Band, Toronto
Retailer; management consultant and community leader; active with the St. John Ambulance and Young People's Theatre. Concerns: women in business
Term: Oct/84 to Oct/87

Youth

Not only are we going North but East, West and South too! Sam Ion, our President, attended the Joint meeting of Federal/Provincial Status of Women Councils in Quebec, November 5-6/84 where the theme was Youth Employment. Several major points arose, including the fact that there are few feminists under the age of 35! Young girls are not yet aware of the inequalities in the current system. Everybody makes the same wage at 16 - minimum wage! The pressure is still strong for girls to drop maths and sciences, thus eliminating the vast array of jobs of the future. Although they can see alternate paths of home/family or a career, they can't seem to envision a viable combination.

We must reach these young women before they reach 30, before they discover that in order to be what they've decided they would like to be they have to go back and get their Grade 12 physics or geometry! It's discouraging at that late date and might just keep a lot of them in a job ghetto.

We need ideas, programs, practical suggestions as to how to reach them. Perhaps each and every women's group in the province can "adopt" one teenage girl and her mother (her strongest influence) and expand their educational expectations and horizons.



Departures

Sheila Ward, vice-president, resigned October 31, 1984, in order to take up her new position with the Health Disciplines Board. Sheila put in some long, hard hours for Council, for which we are thankful. Good luck Sheila!

Arrivals

Sam Ion, President, and Ed Arundell, Sarah Band, Alexandra (Sandra) Kerr, Dorothy Kirby-Rawn, Diane Marleau and Mariah Seymour, Council members.

We're back to full strength and looking forward to a productive 1985!

Suggestions

We feel this is a good time to ask what you would like to see in future newsletters.

We'd like to include a column congratulating women achievers but we'll need considerable input from our readers.

We'll be adding a President's Column soon. Also under consideration are columns on important changes in legislation and on the work of our various committees.

Could you also send us the name and address of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter but doesn't yet.